

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

PHOTO INTERPRETATION BRIEF

Title: Description of a Hard IRBM  
Launch Position at Gelli  
Launch Area No 3, USSR

Geo Coords:  
42-47-45N 47-23-00E  
NPIC Target No:  
0325-100

Publication No:  
NPIC/R-295/63  
Date:  
November 1963

Photo Data:

References: USATC Series 200, Sheet 0325-8A (S)  
NPIC Project J-398/63 (PC 886-63)

photography of [ ]  
[ ] revealed through scattered clouds a portion of the launch site of Gelli Launch Area No 3 (TDI name, Paraul). This constitutes the first observation of a hard launch position on larger scale [ ] photography and permits a more comprehensive analysis of the launch silo construction. The following description and graphic illustration (Figure 1) are based primarily on this observation supported by an analysis of other hard

launch sites on earlier [ ] photography.

The hard launch position consists of a concrete platform 100 by 70 ft, at the center of which is located a launch silo. The aperture of the silo at the surface level is [ ] in diameter. Within the aperture and at a lower level there is an inner casing with an inside diameter of [ ] and a wall thickness of approximately 5 ft. A probable separation of approximately [ ] exists between the outside circumference of the inner casing and the outside silo wall. This probable separation is imaged on the photography as a dark band along the entire outside circumference of the inner casing. A deflection wall of undetermined size is positioned on either side and parallel to the sides of the surface platform. These provide protection for probable rails located inboard of each wall and the sides of the silo cover, which slides horizontally along the inward sides of the walls. The silo cover measures 55 ft on a side and has an overall height of approximately 15 ft. The top of the cover is somewhat pyramidal in design. When the silo cover is in a closed position two probable rail foundations are evident extending perpendicularly from the forward edge of the surface foundation. These appear as concrete strips and are separated by approximately 50 ft.

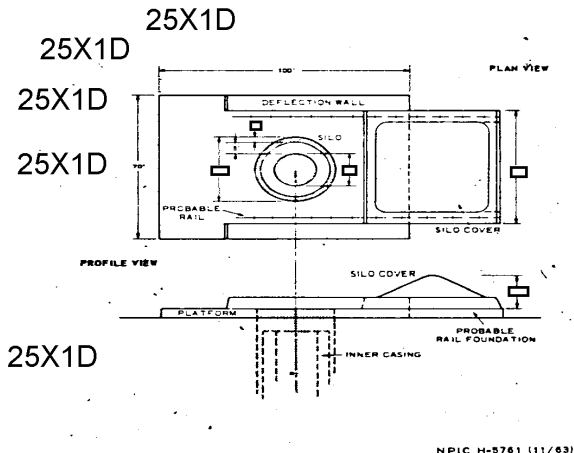


FIGURE 1. HARD IRBM LAUNCH POSITION, GELLI, USSR.

Declassification review by NGA/DoD

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